An Indian local flora. It is an encouraging sign to find universities increasingly aware that an account of the flora of the neighbourhood is an essential for adequate student instruction in botany. The first of the Botanical Memoirs* of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda is therefore fittingly devoted to the flora of Pavagadh, a hill which provides the richest flora within reasonable reach.

The work starts with a general description of Pavagadh Hill, its geology and climate and a short account of the main vegetation types within the area. This is a simple and adequate account; it could have been made simpler by omitting the authorities to the species names. These are unnecessary where a full enumeration of the flora follows.

The flora proper comprises some 260 pages. There is no key to the families (which is perhaps rather a pity from the students' point of view), but keys are given to genera within each family and to species. Original observation on some of the species, as in *Curcuma*, are a very good feature. It is a pity that some of the keys are based on such trivial characters: two species of *Jacquemontia* are merely distinguished by having blue or white flowers: three very different species of *Capparis* are keyed out only on the arrangement of the flowers: *Trichodesma* and *Heliotropium* are distinguished only by habit (incompletely) and flower colour—two features that fail to touch on the real generic differences. It is in using keys that students learn observation and it is important to foster this. Further, the characters may only fit the species as they are known in the small area under consideration: he would be a brave man who would affirm that *Jacquemontia pentantha* never has an albino form.

Nevertheless this will be a very useful book for the University students and they must be encouraged to contribute notes and observation that will enhance a later edition. This should include one correction: *Commelina nudiflora* L. is a name that should be applied to a species referable to *Murdannia*; the plant intended here is no doubt that now known as *Commelina diffusa* Burm. f. One other change needs to be made: the key to the genera of Scrophulariaceae is not wholly dichotomous; there is at one point a trichotomy and unfortunately the third choice comes at the top of a new page where is is easily overlooked. Fundamentally, however, this is a useful and competent book in which Professor Charan and Dr. Oza are to be warmly congratulated.

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* The Flora of Pavagadh (Gujarat State, India). A. R. Chavan & G. M. Oza. The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda: Botanical Memoirs No. 1. Baroda, 1966. vii, 296 pp., 2 plates. Price twelve shillings.